Dual-Phase Inorganic Membrane for High Temperature Carbon Dioxide Separation

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Abstract

This study is focused on synthesis and property study of inorganic dual-phase (metal and molten carbonate) membrane for separation of carbon dioxide at high temperatures. Our main goals are to obtain a membrane with carbon dioxide permeance of $1-5\times10^{-7}$ mol/m²· S· Pa and carbon dioxide to nitrogen selectivity up to 100 at high temperatures (400-600°C). Dense dual-phase membrane was synthesized by a direct infiltration method with macroporous metal substrate and Li/Na/K carbonate mixture. Helium permeation measurements with a rubber seal at room temperature show that the helium permeance of the metal membrane decreased by 5 orders of magnitude after infiltration of the molten carbonate. Only carbon dioxide in the ionic form can permeate through the membrane. The more gas-tight the membrane is, the more permselective it is to carbon dioxide from gas mixture. A high temperature permeation/separation system was set up and a membrane cell with an oxidation resistant graphite gasket seal was tested. The new oxidation resistant grade graphite seal showed better gas-tightness (by one order of magnitude in terms of helium permeance) than the normal grade graphite seal at high temperatures (400-500°C). Experiments are being conducted to test permeation and separation properties for carbon dioxide on the dual-phase membrane samples that were prepared. The results of the permeation/separation experiments will provide feedback for optimization of the membrane synthesis.

List of Publications/Presentations (DE-FG26-00NT41555)

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